DARK HORSE COMICS
$2.99 U.S.
#15
Will Eisner
THE GOON
ALL WORK NO PAY NO WAY!!!
UNION FOR THE WORKER
LABOR RIGHTS
STRIKE NOW UNFAIR $$$
by Eric Powell

The nameless man, the zombie priest, had come to town to build a gang from the undead. But even the undead fear…

THE GOON™

by Eric Powell

edited by Matt Dryer **designed by Amy Arendts**
published by Mike Richardson

Zombies provided by **Iethro and Earl Zombie Wranglerin' Inc.**
and **The Adopt-A-Zombie Foundation**

Umlauts provided by: **Scott Allie**

The Goon™ #15, December 2005. Published by Dark Horse Comics, Inc., 10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, Oregon 97222.

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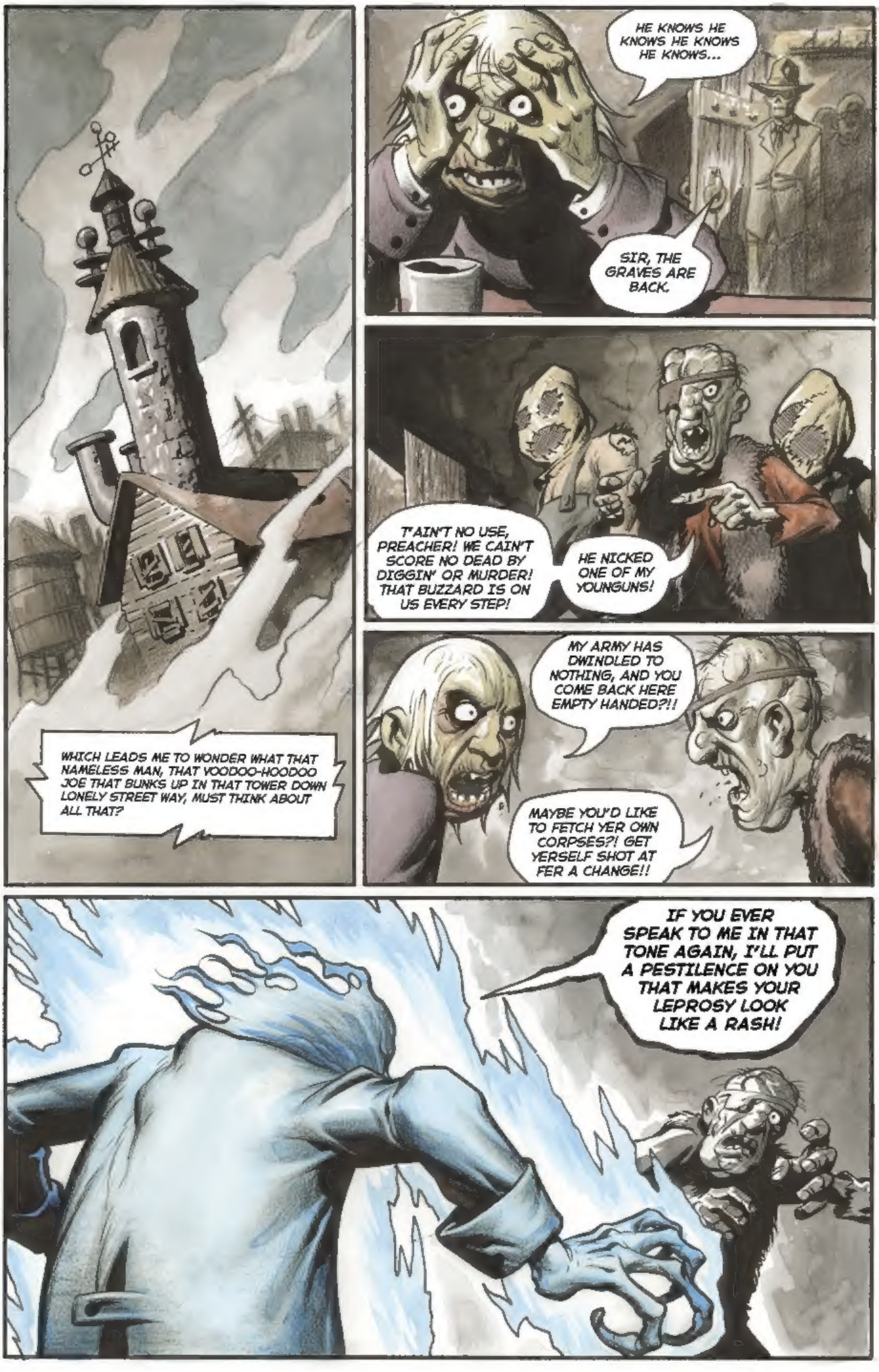
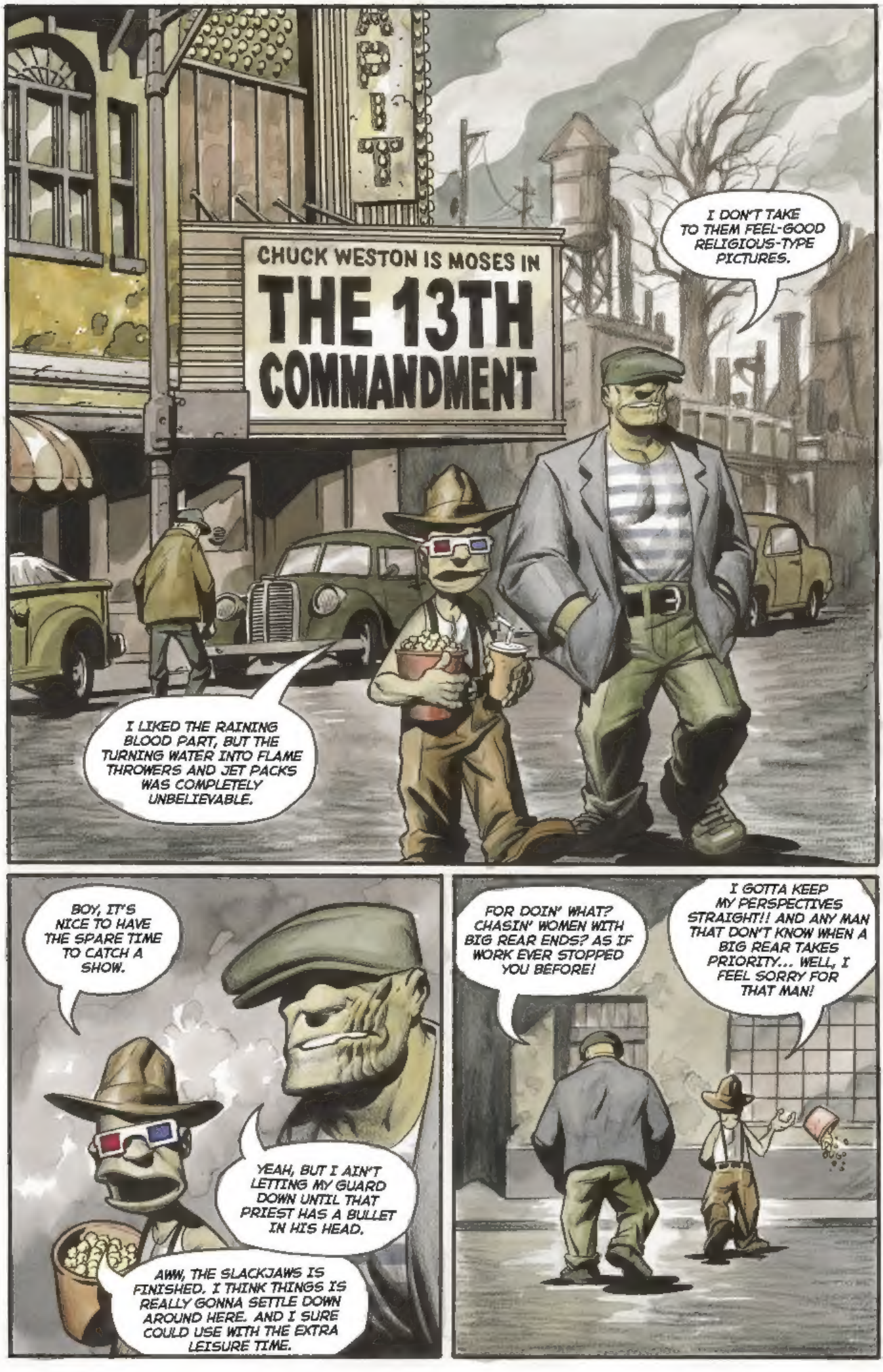
FOR THOSE OF YOU NOT IN THE KNOW, SEVERAL YEARS OF GANGLAND SHENANIGANS HAVE HAD THOSE DOWNTRODDEN FOLKS DOWNTOWN SHAKING IN THEIR SHOES! BUT IT SEEMS NOW, DEAR LISTENERS, THAT THE LABRAZIO FAMILY, RUN BY THAT NEFARIOUS HAM-FISTED HOODLUM THE GOON, HAS GOTTEN A STEP UP ON THOSE OLD ZOMBIE BOYS!
YESSIREE, SEEMS THAT ZOMBIE GANG HAS BEEN STEADILY WEEDED DOWN OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS BY THE GOON AND HIS BOYS! YOUR FAITHFUL NEWSMAN CAN NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY STRANGE ALLEGATIONS OF A SPECTER HOUNDING THE UNDEAD HOOLIGANS ON THE GOON'S BEHALF, BUT WORD ON THE STREET IS THE ZOMBIES ARE THROUGH! AND IT SEEMS TO THIS REPORTER THAT THE SIMPLE FACT THAT LITTLE AUNT DELILAH CAN TAKE SPOT FOR A WALK BY THE OLD FIRE HYDRANT AFTER TWILIGHT WITHOUT HAVING HER FACE CHEWED OFF, MEANS THAT GAB AIN'T JUST LOOSE LIP!


WHICH LEADS ME TO WONDER WHAT THAT NAMELESS MAN, THAT VOODOO-HOODOO JOE THAT BUNKS UP IN THAT TOWER DOWN LONELY STREET WAY, MUST THINK ABOUT ALL THAT?
HE KNOWS HE KNOWS HE KNOWS HE KNOWS...
SIR, THE GRAVES ARE BACK.
T'AIN'T NO USE, PREACHER! WE CAIN'T SCORE NO DEAD BY DIGGIN' OR MURDER! THAT BUZZARD IS ON US EVERY STEP!
HE NICKED ONE OF MY YOUNGUNS!
MY ARMY HAS DWINDLED TO NOTHING, AND YOU COME BACK HERE EMPTY HANDED?!!
MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO FETCH YER OWN CORPSES?! GET YERSELF SHOT AT FER A CHANGE!!
IF YOU EVER SPEAK TO ME IN THAT TONE AGAIN, I'LL PUT A PESTILENCE ON YOU THAT MAKES YOUR LEPROSY LOOK LIKE A RASH!

EVERYTHING IS FALLING APART. ALL OF MY PLANS SPOILED. I CAN'T GO BACK, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?!
IT IS WIN OR FACE OBLIVION THIS TIME. SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE. THE HESITANT HAND WILL FALTER.
SIR?
LAZLO, THERE IS SOMETHING I MUST HAVE. IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE. SPARE NO RESOURCE.
BUZZARD MUST BE DISTRACTED. SEND OUT ALL OF OUR REMAINING FORCES. CONFRONT HIM IN THE GRAVEYARD. KEEP HIM THERE.
HOUSTUS, YOU WILL GO TO THE GATES FAMILY CRYPT LOCATED ON THEIR ESTATE. THERE YOU WILL FIND WHAT I NEED.
YOU SCUM-SUCKING IDOL WORSHIPPERS! PREPARE TO FEEL THE WRATH OF THE LORD THY GOD!

HA-YAH!!
THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM, MOSES! WE'LL NEVER GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE!
YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN BORN A SPLIT-TAIL, YOU PANSY! SPARE ME THE SISSY TALK AND FIGHT LIKE YOU GOT A PAIR!
LET MY PEOPLE GO!!
LIKE THE ALMIGHTY BUSH, MY LOINS ARE ON FIRE FOR YOU, BABY!
OH, PART THE SEAS, MOSES! PART THE SEAS!

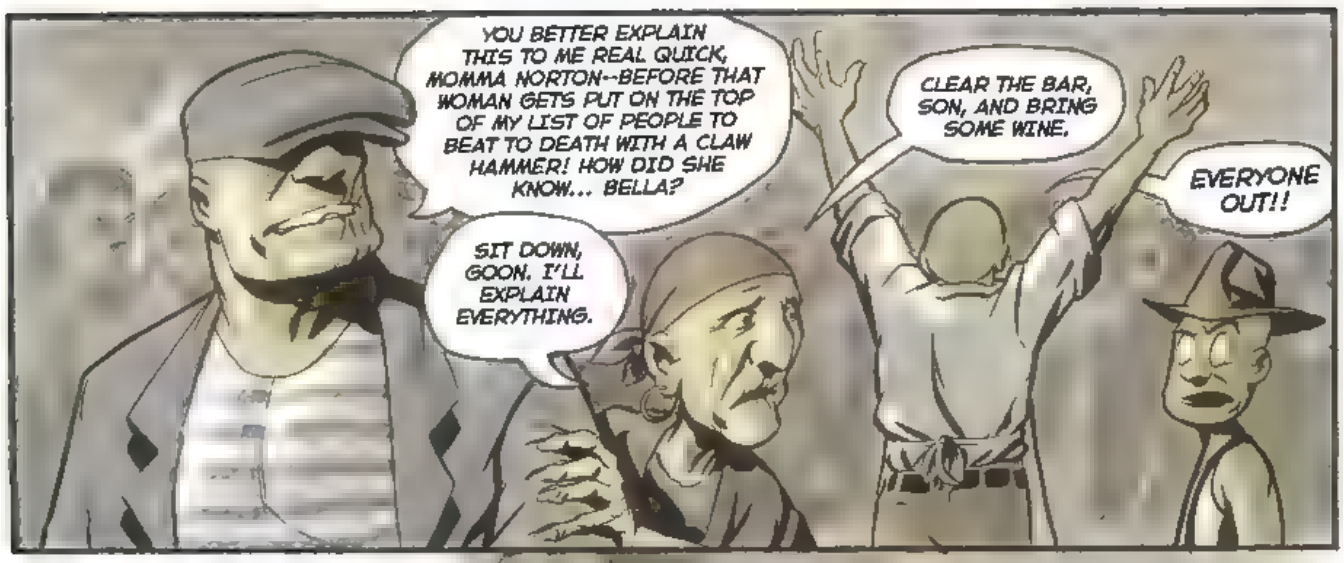

CHUCK WESTON IS MOSES IN
THE 13TH COMMANDMENT
I DON'T TAKE TO THEM FEEL-GOOD RELIGIOUS-TYPE PICTURES.
I LIKED THE RAINING BLOOD PART, BUT THE TURNING WATER INTO FLAME THROWERS AND JET PACKS WAS COMPLETELY UNBELIEVABLE.
BOY, IT'S NICE TO HAVE THE SPARE TIME TO CATCH A SHOW.
YEAH, BUT I AIN'T LETTING MY GUARD DOWN UNTIL THAT PRIEST HAS A BULLET IN HIS HEAD.
AWW, THE SLACKJAWS IS FINISHED. I THINK THINGS IS REALLY GONNA SETTLE DOWN AROUND HERE. AND I SURE COULD USE WITH THE EXTRA LEISURE TIME.
FOR DOIN' WHAT? CHASIN' WOMEN WITH BIG REAR ENDS? AS IF WORK EVER STOPPED YOU BEFORE!
I GOTTA KEEP MY PERSPECTIVES STRAIGHT!! AND ANY MAN THAT DON'T KNOW WHEN A BIG REAR TAKES PRIORITY... WELL, I FEEL SORRY FOR THAT MAN!

YOU BEIN' OF THE EIGHT-LEGGED VARIETY, SHOULDN'T YOU CLASS UP THEM APPENDAGES WITH SOME TIME-TELLIN' ORNAMENTATION?!
DO YOU TAKE CREDIT?
YOU AGAIN!!
GULP!
AW, FERGET IT!! I'M TIRED OF KICKIN' THE CRAP OUTTA YA!!
WHY YOU GOTTA GO SERVIN' THAT SLACKJAW FOR, NORTON?
YEAH, DON'T YOU KNOW THEM THINGS IS LIKE STRAY DOGS? YOU START FEEDIN' 'EM AND THERE AIN'T NO GETTIN' RID OF 'EM!
AW, HE AIN'T SO BAD. HE DOESN'T EVEN BITE.

MAY I PLEASE SPEAK WITH JALIA?
YEAH, I'LL GET HER.
MOMMA! THERE'S SOMEONE HERE TO SEE YOU!
YES?
YOU HAVE DISGRACED MY FAMILY! I AM HERE TO TAKE SATISFACTION! WHERE IS THE ENGAGEMENT RING?!

DÜMÜSÜJÜL?!
THAT IS MY BLOOD!
I DON'T HAVE THE RING! AND YOU KNOW I CAN'T BE FORCED TO GIVE UP ITS PLACE! THAT IS THE LAW!
YOU THINK I CAN'T FIND IT, OLD WOMAN?
MOMMA! WH- AHH!
GET YER MEAT HOOKS OFF MY PAL BEFORE I SMASH YER STINKIN' FACE IN!!
GOON, NO!! NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS HERE, DO NOT TOUCH EITHER OF THESE PEOPLE, OR INTERFERE IN ANY WAY!
LISTEN TO THE OLD WOMAN, OAF. SHE WILL SAVE YOUR LIFE.

I WILL FIND IT, OLD WOMAN, BE ASSURED OF THAT.
COME, DEMETER!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?! LOOK, LADY, THESE PEOPLE ARE FRIENDS OF MINE! IF YOU GOT A BEEF WITH THEM, THEN YOU GOT ONE WITH ME!
YES, BY ALL MEANS, INTERFERE, OAF. PLEASE, ASSAULT DEMETER NOW. BEAT HIM AND SHOW US HOW FORMIDABLE YOU ARE. FRIGHTEN US AWAY.
MEN LIKE YOU ARE SO EASY TO READ, KEEPING EVERYTHING INSIDE UNTIL IT SEEPS FROM YOUR PORES LIKE A PALPABLE VAPOR. YOU FEEL ALMOST AT HOME HERE, DON'T YOU? THESE PEOPLE ARE THE CLOSEST THING TO FAMILY YOU HAVE LEFT? THE FIRST THING I WILL DO WHEN ALL THAT IS THEIRS IS MINE ... IS BURN THIS HOVEL TO THE GROUND.
OH, AND, OAF, ISABELLA LIVES AS A WHORE.
YOU FILTHY [redacted]! I'LL KILL YOU!
NO, GOON! DON'T LISTEN TO HER!


YOU BETTER EXPLAIN THIS TO ME REAL QUICK, MOMMA NORTON--BEFORE THAT WOMAN GETS PUT ON THE TOP OF MY LIST OF PEOPLE TO BEAT TO DEATH WITH A CLAW HAMMER! HOW DID SHE KNOW... BELLA?
SIT DOWN, GOON. I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING.
CLEAR THE BAR, SON, AND BRING SOME WINE.
EVERYONE OUT!!

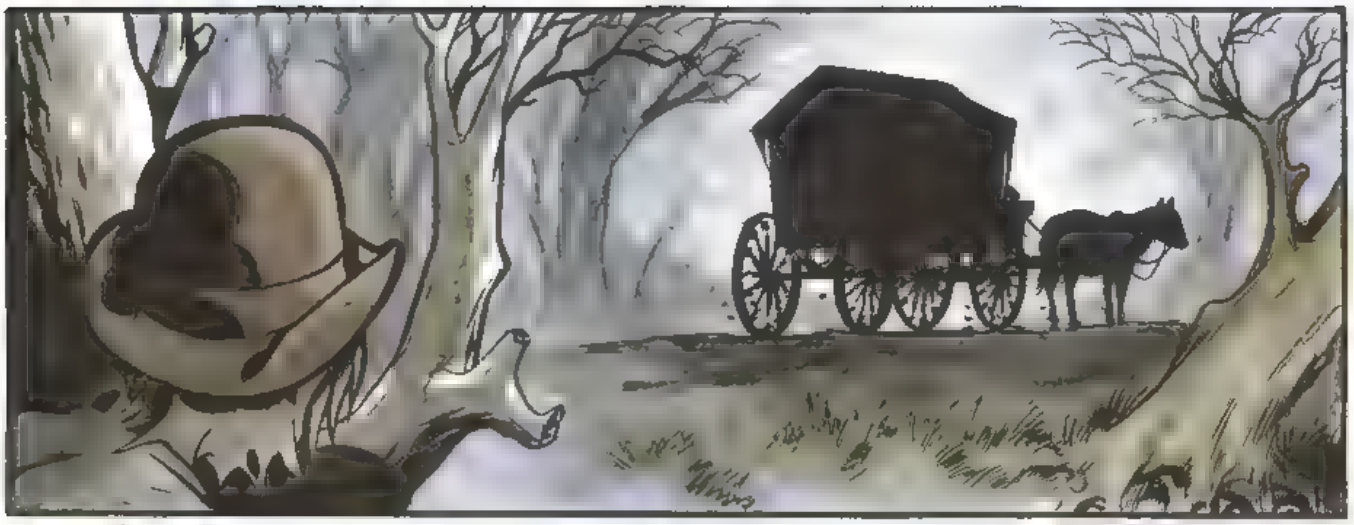
THAT WOMAN WANTED YOU TO INTERFERE, BECAUSE IF YOU HAD, MINE AND MY KIN'S LIVES WOULD HAVE BEEN FORFEIT, AND YOU WOULD'VE BEEN STRICKEN WITH A TERRIBLE CURSE, LIVING OUT THE REST OF YOUR DAYS ONLY TO SUFFER! YOU ARE AN OUTSIDER! YOU CANNOT GET INVOLVED IN THESES MATTERS!

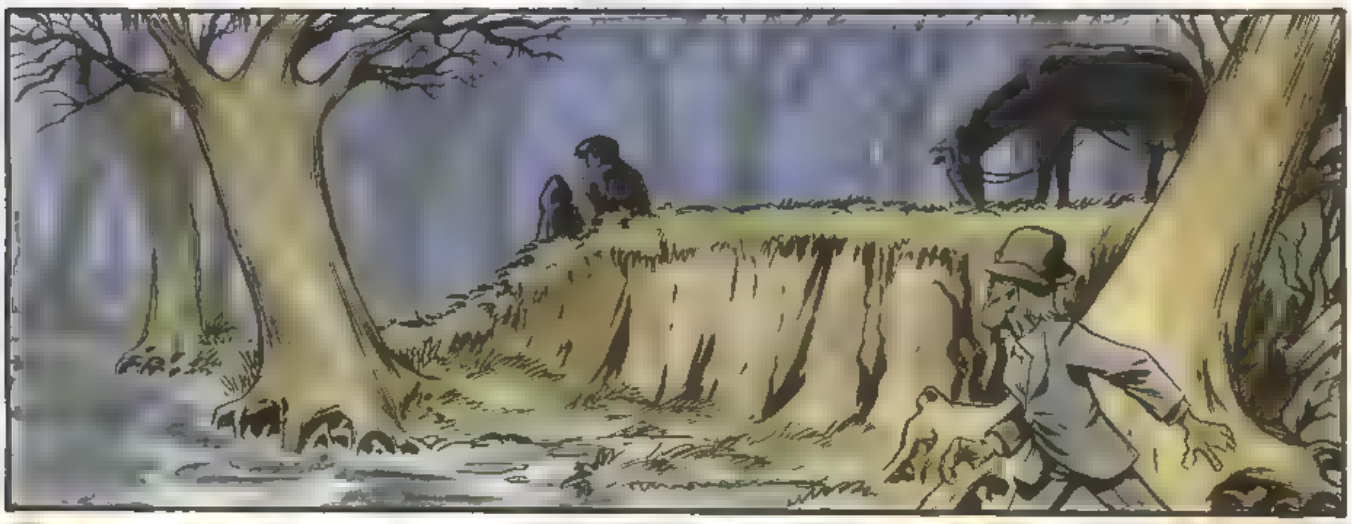
THIS IS MY DOING. IT ALL STARTED IN THE OLD COUNTRY, YOU SEE, WHEN I WAS A YOUNG WOMAN. MY COUSIN WAS BETROTHED TO A HIGH GYPSY SHAMAN WHO WAS MANY YEARS HER ELDER. HE WAS A VERY CRUEL MAN, AND MY COUSIN HAD NO LOVE FOR HIM. IT WAS THE DECISION OF HER FATHER. HE WANTED TO ALIGN THE CLANS TO INCREASE HIS OWN STATUS.

I LOVED MY COUSIN DEARLY, AND COULDN'T STAND TO SEE HER GIVEN TO SUCH A PIG. AS THE ELDEST GIRL CHILD IN OUR CLAN, I TOOK HER BURDEN ON MYSELF, FREEING HER FROM ANY OBLIGATION TO THE SHAMAN. BUT I HAD NO INTENTION OF MARRYING HIM. I WAS ONLY BUYING MY COUSIN TIME. SHE FLED, AND WAS NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN. I PRAY THAT SHE FOUND A HAPPY LIFE FAR AWAY FROM THAT PLACE. I FOLLOWED HER EXAMPLE AND CHOSE EXILE, ESCAPING TO THIS COUNTRY AND LEAVING HIM AT THE ALTAR. THE RULES AND LAWS THAT GOVERN MY PEOPLE ARE TOO HARD TO EXPLAIN TO AN OUTSIDER, BUT I BROUGHT GREAT SHAME UPON MYSELF BY DOING THIS. THE ENGAGEMENT RING I TOOK WAS AN HEIRLOOM OF HIS PEOPLE. IT WAS MY CONTRACT TO HIM, AND MY DEATH WARRANT, SHOULD IT BE FOUND ON ME BY ANY OF THE CLANS.

WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED HERE, I THREW IT INTO THE SWAMP OUTSIDE OF TOWN, THINKING IT COULD NEVER BE FOUND THERE. BUT THIS WOMAN IS A HIGH PRIESTESS. SHE CAN SEE YOUR MIND. SHE WILL KNOW WHERE TO LOOK FOR THE RING. IF THE RING IS FOUND, SHE WILL BE FREE TO EXECUTE HER FAMILY'S REVENGE UPON ME AND MY SON. THIS IS OUR LAW. THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP IT.

OKAY, I WON'T GET INVOLVED DIRECTLY FOR THE TIME BEING. BUT UNTIL I CAN FIND A WAY TO HELP, WE NEED TO PUT SOMEBODY ON THAT BROAD. SEE WHAT SHE'S UP TO.
SHE IS A GYPSY PRIESTESS! IF HUMAN EYES ARE UPON HER, SHE'LL KNOW IT!
WHAT ABOUT HIM? HE AIN'T EVEN GOT EYES.
HEY, SLACKJAW, WANNA MAKE A FEW BUCKS?
THE NAME'S WILLIE NAGEL, BUDDY, AND AS LONG AS PHYSICAL LABOR AIN'T INVOLVED, I'M YOUR MAN!




FA!

AND THAT WITCHY WOMAN RAISED UP THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD SLAVES! THEY'RE DRAINING THE SWAMP OUT THERE FOR SOME REASON.
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME NOW!
SO SHE'S WORKIN' THESE GHOSTS, HUH?
I HEARD STORIES ABOUT DEAD SLAVES BEING THROWN INTO THOSE MARSHES BACK IN THE OLD TIMES. POOR THINGS. AS IF THEY DIDN'T SUFFER ENOUGH WHEN THEY WERE ALIVE. SHE'S JUST ENSLAVING THEM AGAIN.
C'MON, FRANKY, AND BRING THE HANDBOOK!!
THE HANDBOOK?!!

OKAY, LADY, I'M GIVING YOU ONE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAVE THIS TOWN PEACEFUL-LIKE BEFORE I GOTTA SMASH UP YOU AND YER GORILLA FRIEND THERE!!
YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO JALIA, OAF. YOU WILL LIVE LONGER. WE ARE GOING NOWHERE.
SO BE IT! UNION BROTHER FRANKY?!
YES, UNION BROTHER GOON?!
READ THIS HERE UNLAWFUL CONTRACTOR THE EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND EXCAVATION SITES!
CHAPTER FIVE, SECTION THIRTY-TWO! NO SITE WITHIN THIRTY-FIVE MILES OF CITY LIMITS MAY EMPLOY NON-UNION OR "SCAB" WORKERS! ANY EMPLOYER NOT HIRING UNION WORKERS, AND PROVIDING HEALTH, DENTAL, AND BASIC LIABILITY INSURANCE UPON HIRING SAID WORKERS, IS IN VIOLATION, AND SAID EMPLOYER SHALL BE SHUT DOWN AND RUN OUT OF TOWN ON A RAIL!!
SO THERE'S ONE THING I GOTTA ASK YOU, LADY--THOSE GHOSTS GOT DENTAL?

THAT GIBBERISH MEANS NOTHING! THIS MATTER DOESN'T CONCERN YOU!
YOU GYPSIES GOT YOUR RULES... THE UNION'S GOT THEIRS! THESE GHOSTS YOU GOT WORKING HERE AIN'T EVEN GETTIN' PAID. SEEIN' AS HOW THE LABRAZIO FAMILY CONTROLS THE UNIONS IN THIS TOWN, WHICH MAKES ME THE UNION CHIEF, I GOTTA LOOK OUT FOR THE RIGHTS OF EVERY WORKING MAN. IN OTHER WORDS...
THIS IS MY BUSINESS NOW!!
WHAP!

SWINE! YOUR FLESH WILL CRUMBLE AND PEEL LIKE CHARRED PAPER! YOU WILL LEARN TO FEAR THE GYPSIES CURSE!!
WHAT IS THIS?!!
LITTLE KNOWN BYLAW, LADY! PAGE SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO, SUBCLAUSE TWENTY-ONE! NO EMPLOYER SHALL ADMINISTER OR CONDONE THE USE OF BLACK MAGIC, SORCERY, OR MYSTICISM OF ANY SORT TO MITIGATE UNION DISPUTES!
RULES IS RULES!
KILL HIM, DEMETER!

YOU FELLAS SIGN YER MARK HERE AND NO ONE WILL MAKE YOU RISE FROM THE GRAVE AGAIN! I GUARANTEE YOU THAT, UNION BROTHERS!

THIS SIMPLE LITTLE THING IS CALLED A GARROTE! I ONCE SLICED A MAN'S HEAD CLEAN OFF WITH IT! IT'LL BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF I CAN MAKE IT ALL THE WAY THROUGH A NECK THICK AS YERS!
STOP! PLEASE STOP!
SO THIS GORILLA MEANS SOMETHING TO YOU, DOES HE?
HE IS LIKE A BROTHER TO ME!
THEN HERE'S THE DEAL! YOU FORGO ANY VENGEANCE YOU HAVE PLANNED FOR NORTON'S PEOPLE! THE FEUD'S OVER, YOU GET ME?!
I WILL EXCHANGE THEIR LIVES FOR DEMETER'S. ALL VENDETTAS ARE FORGOTTEN. LET THE RING LIE IN THE SWAMP.
COME, DEMETER.
WHAT I SAID THE OTHER DAY ABOUT THE WOMAN...
THE DEAL WAS TO SPARE HIS LIFE, NOT YOURS! SHUT YOUR MOUTH AND GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!
VERY WELL.

AND THAT'S HOW WE LICKED THAT WITCH! BY USIN' THE OLD NOODLE!
YEAH, YOU'RE A REGULAR IVY-LEAGUE SCHOLAR, FRANKY.
YOU HAVE SAVED US, GOON! WHATEVER IS OURS IS NOW YOURS!
YEAH, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A GOOD PAL, BUT THIS IS MORE THAN WE COULD HAVE EVER ASKED FOR.
THIS IS THE DEED TO THE PUB. PLEASE TAKE IT. IT'S THE ONLY THING OF IMPORTANCE WE OWN.
NAH, KEEP YER PUB. I LIKE THE PLACE, AND I'D BE TOO TEMPTED TO SQUEEZE THE JOINT AND THEN BURN IT DOWN FOR THE INSURANCE MONEY.
BREAK OPEN THE WINE! FROM THIS DAY ON, I HAVE TWO SONS!!
GREAT. MY ADOPTED MOTHER IS A LOONEY BAT THAT PLAYS IN THE MUD AND HANDS OUT PETRIFIED CATS' EYES.
IT'S GOOD TO BE LOVED. EVEN BY THE INSANE.

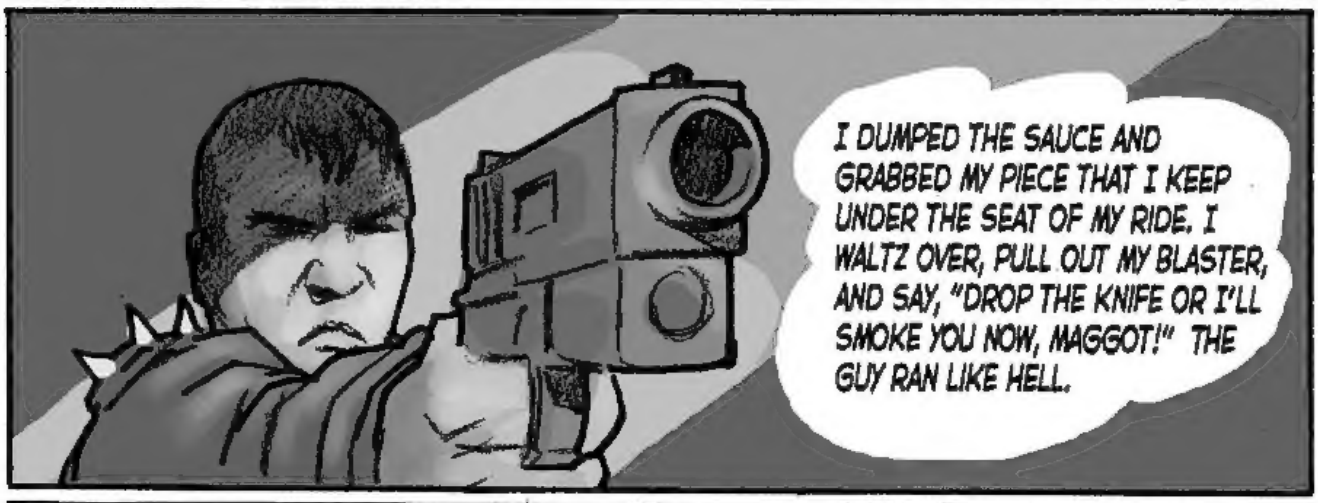
PLACE IT ON THE TABLE, HOUSTUS. YOU DID VERY WELL.
THE DISTRACTION WORKED, BUT BUZZARD DESTROYED VIRTUALLY OUR ENTIRE ZOMBIE HORDE IN THE PROCESS. I DOUBT WE'LL EVEN BE ABLE TO DEFEND LONELY STREET AT THIS POINT.
THE DEAD HUMANS MATTER LITTLE NOW. THEY KNOW MY NAME, YOU SEE.
WHAT'S HE TALKIN' ABOUT?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
TREACHEROUS, MULES! DO YOU DOUBT THE MASTER?!
SHUT UP, CAT!
RISE, MY LOVE! YOU ARE THE INSTRUMENT OF MY RESURRECTION!

FREDERICK AND I DEARLY WANT A CHILD. EVEN THOUGH THE DOCTOR SAID THERE COULD BE COMPLICATIONS... LIFE-THREATENING COMPLICATIONS.
FOR OUR HEART'S DESIRES, MOTHER CORPSE, SACRIFICES MUST ALWAYS BE MADE.
MY BABY'S NAME WILL BE MICHAEL.
WHAT A LOVELY NAME, MOTHER CORPSE!
AAAAH!
TO BE CONTINUED.

The True Life Adventures of WEITLAUF

ADAPTED BY ERIC POWELL

SO THERE I WAS... IN THE LOT OF MY LOCAL LIQUOR MART ABOUT TO SCOOT AFTER PURCHASING A FIFTH OF CHEAP BOOZE WHEN I SEE A HEIST GOIN' DOWN. TURNS OUT SOME THUG WAS JACKIN' UP THE CIGARETTE DELIVERY GUY WITH A KNIFE AT THE DISCOUNT TOBACCO PLACE NEXT DOOR.


I DUMPED THE SAUCE AND GRABBED MY PIECE THAT I KEEP UNDER THE SEAT OF MY RIDE. I WALTZ OVER, PULL OUT MY BLASTER, AND SAY, "DROP THE KNIFE OR I'LL SMOKE YOU NOW, MAGGOT!" THE GUY RAN LIKE HELL.

THE CIGARETTE GUY THANKED ME RIGHT AND RELAYED THE SITUATION TO HIS BOSS. NEXT THING I KNOW, THEY'RE GIVING ME ALL THEIR DENTED CARTONS OF CIGARETTES FOR A YEAR. WORD.

EMPIRE